(b) the measures proposed to acquire permanent membership of the Security Council?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) During the bilateral discussions with the President of Brazil, commercial relations and cooperation between the two countries were discussed. It was noted that there was ample scope for further expansion of bilateral trade and economic cooperation in areas like electronics, computer software, telecommunication, aviation, railways, steel, pharmaceuticals, traditional Indian medicine, automobiles, motor-cycles, scooters and cycles. Possibilities of collaborations and joint ventures in some of the areas were also discussed. The Brazilian side has shown keenness to obtain fresh genetic material from India for their cattle. About 80% of the Brazilian cattle is from Gujarat and Andhra Pradesh. An Implementing Arrangement for Cooperation in the field of Health and Medicine under the bilateral agreement on Science & Technology was also signed which will help in expanding trade exchanges in these sectors.

(b) the two Presidents discussed the question of reform of the Security Council. During the discusssions, India and Brazil renewed their support for each other's candidature for the permanent seat in the expanded Security Council as pledged in the Joint Declaration issued at the end of President Cardoso's visit to India in January 1996. Both countries agreed to work closely together to achieve this objective.

Signing of CTBT during US President's Visit

929. DR. MOHAN BABU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether India propose to sign Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty during US President's proposed visit this year; and

(b) the reasons for deviating from the past practice?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Orientation Programme for Haj Pilgrims

930. SHRI AHMED PATEL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had conducted any orientation programme for the Haj pilgrims before their departure for Haj;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether booklets giving information about the Haj facilities available and do's and dont's are also supplied in advance to every Haji;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the action Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) No, sir. Training/orientation programme are done for the Haj pilgrims by the Haj Committee, Mumbai, and the various State Haj Committees.

(c) to (e) A statement is laid on the Table of the House. (*See* below)

Statement

The Haj Committee, Mumbai conducts regular lecture classes at Haj House during the Haj season. Pilgrims stay for this in Mumbai for three days. In respect of other embarkation points like Delhi, Bangalore, Chennai, Calcutta and Srinagar, special training camps were orgranised last year and this year by the State Haj Committees concerned and voluntary organisations at District and Taluks level.

Annual camps are organised by organisations like Markazi-Khidmat-ul-Hujjaj, Aurangabad; the District Haj

Committee, Pune; Anjuman Khuddamul Hujjaj, Calcutta; and the Anjuman Khuddamul Hujjaj, Delhi. Uttar Pradesh State Haj Committee has carved out a special programme of orientation through the religious Madrasas (schools) spread throughout the State. It conducted orientation lectures in the months of November-December, 1997.

Maharashtra State Haj Committee also organised a special orientation course for one month in Mumbai by setting up a model of Haram Sharief.

Central Haj Committee, Mumbai prepares Haj guides in Urdu, Hindi and English languages, indicating do's and don'ts. Besides this, press releases and paid advertisements are also issued by the Haj Committee giving valuable guidance to pilgrims.

The Ministry of External Affairs has produced a film titled "Aao Haj Karein", which provides pilgrims with detailed information about Haj rituals; it also contains information about living conditions in Saudi Arabia, and advises pilgrims about safety measures so that they have a safe and successful Haj.

For Haj 99, the Minister will be instructing (all concerned Central and State organisations) to provide comprehensive training/orientation programmes for pilgrims in order to equip them better to complete Haj rituals safely and successfully.

Facilities to Old Haj Pilgrims

931. SHRI AHMED PATEL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state the details of the facilities provided to the old and disabled Haj pilgrims at the airports, in the aircraft and in Saudi Arabia and on their return journey by Government and other agencies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House (*See* below)

Statement

Facilities to old Haj pilgrims

All authorities concerned with Haj management provide special attention to old and disabled pilgrims in India and Saudi Arabia from the time of their embarkation for Haj to their return to india. At the various disembarkation points in India, the State Haj Committees depute volunteers who take special care of old and disabled pilgrims and assist them in the completion of their formalities and their movement to the aircraft. Medical facilities are also available, if required. In the aircraft, the crew makes special arrangements for their boarding and seating.

At the Haj Terminal in Saudi Arabia, both at the arrival and departure of pilgrims, the Indian Consulate arranges for wheel chairs for pilgrims requiring assistance, and facilitates the completion of their immigration and customs formalities.

In Makkah, while allotting accommodation to old and disabled pilgrims, it is ensured that they are given accommodation units on the ground and first floors along with all their family members who had applied for Haj in the same cover. The Building Supervisors pay special attention to their welfare, while mobile medical teams pay regular visit to them. Pilgrims who are blind or have impaired vision have an Assistant attached to them on a full-time basis.

For their journeys to Mina and Arafat particularly old and infirm pilgrims are transported in ambulances.

UN President's proposal for expanding Security Council

932. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the President, United Nations General Assembly, has mooted a